

Ex-FBI Official's Papers Subpoenaed By House Unit Soon After His Death

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The House assassinations committee issued a subpoena for former FBI official William C. Sullivan's papers shortly after he was killed in a hunting accident to keep them from being destroyed, a congressional source says.

Sullivan was killed while hunting near Sugar Hill, N.H., last week by another hunter who mistook him for a deer, authorities said. The hunter was charged with a misdemeanor count of shooting a human being.

Sullivan, 65, was the former No. 3 man in the FBI. He served as director for intelligence operations for the FBI for 10 years before becoming a special assistant to the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The source yesterday said the committee wants the papers and files partly for its investigation into whether harassment of Dr. Martin Luther King by the FBI Cointelpro unit, which Sullivan headed, was linked with the civil rights leader's assassination.

THE COMMITTEE also wants the files because Sullivan's intelligence division conducted the FBI's investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the source said. The committee is investigating both assassinations.

An attorney for Sullivan said the former FBI official had been scheduled to appear before the

House panel, but "didn't know a damn thing" about the assassinations.

He said the committee's chief Kennedy assassination investigator, Clifford A. Fenton Jr., went to Sugar Hill last week, two days after Sullivan's death, to try to find Sullivan's lawyer to serve the subpoena.

Sugar Hill Police Chief Gary Young disclosed the attempt and said he discouraged it because the investigator did not produce the subpoena.

Young also criticized the man's appearance in Sugar Hill so soon after Sullivan's death. "I was disgusted that a representative of the U.S. government would do such a thing at this time," he said.

THE CONGRESSIONAL source said yesterday the subpoena had not been served but asserted that its issuance alone would make anyone who destroyed any of the papers guilty of a federal offense.

He said the assassinations committee issued the subpoena on the basis of information from another House committee.

The source said the other committee told the assassinations committee that Sullivan himself wrote an anonymous letter from the FBI that King interpreted as urging him to commit suicide.

The FBI confirmed to the Senate Intelligence Committee in 1975 that its Cointelpro operations included harassment of King. It confirmed that the harassment included sending an anonymous letter saying in part: "King, there is only one way out for you and you know what it is."

The purpose of the Cointelpro operations as stated by Hoover was to "harass and disrupt" militant organizations.

ALTHOUGH SULLIVAN was not accused at 1975 Senate hearings of writing the possible suicide suggestion to King, he did issue a public statement implying his files contained no derogatory memos against King.

Sullivan had been accused of writing in a memorandum in 1963 that "We regard Martin Luther King as the most dangerous and effective Negro leader in the country."

In his public statement, Sullivan said he found no such memorandum. He said he had searched his files for it because he did not trust Hoover and wanted to be sure he left nothing that could be "twisted" against him.